

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **\$15 million in Grants Available to Aid Economic Development Partnerships**

**SACRAMENTO** – California is invited to compete for U.S. Department of Labor grants of up to \$15 million a year for up to three years to fund regional partnerships that bring together universities, businesses, government, economic development and workforce development organizations to develop strategies for making their regions more competitive in the global economy.

“The Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative is a golden opportunity to create high-skill, high wage jobs for Californians, and to further move our nation’s workforce investment system to become the business-led system it was designed to be. We are grateful for this opportunity from the Employment and Training Administration and we are eager to show the Department of Labor that California has become a leader in innovation and collaboration at the local, regional and state levels,” said Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

The Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) is designed to help create high-skill, high-wage jobs. Partnerships that wish to receive a WIRED grant must submit a concept paper to the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) by 5 p.m. on December 12.

For information about submitting a concept paper, go to [www.edd.ca.gov/wiarep/wiab05-48.pdf](http://www.edd.ca.gov/wiarep/wiab05-48.pdf).

Detailed information about WIRED is available online at [www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov). Partnerships can also learn more about the process from the Employment and Training Administration during a Webinar conference on December 7 beginning at 10 a.m. Pacific Time at [www.workforce3one.org](http://www.workforce3one.org).

(more)

The WIRED initiative brings together three key strategies:

- Workforce development and lifelong learning.
- Investment and entrepreneurial strategies.
- Regional economic development.

Each state can submit no more than three applications for the WIRED grants. LWDA will evaluate the concept papers and select California's three applicants by December 15. The state Employment Development Department will then assist the selected partnerships to develop final applications to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration by January 5.

Questions on the concept paper process should be addressed to Jaime Fall at (916) 327-9064. Partnerships should submit their concept papers by mail or fax by December 12 to:

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